

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 4 JANUARY 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) and on packet bulletin boards.

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that we have to advise of the passing of OM Jimmy dos Santos, ZS6BAL, on Monday 29 December 2003. Jimmy was a member of the West Rand Club and will be missed by his many friends.

To his wife Caron, ZS6MIC, daughters Leigh and Selcia, other relatives and friends our sincere condolences.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

NEW IARU REGION 1 TWO METRE AURORA RECORD

NEW IARU REGION 1 TWO METRE BEACON OPERATIONAL

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL IMMINENT

ORGANISATIONS' COMMENTS AUGMENT ALARM OVER BPL

CLUB NEWS

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

NEW IARU REGION 1 TWO METRE AURORA RECORD

On 31st October 2003 a new IARU Region 1 2-meter aurora record was set between Peter, OZ1LPR, and Nikolai, RA3QTT, at a distance of 2 062 km. The previous record stood at 2 014 km.

## **NEW TRANS-ATLANTIC 2-METRE BEACON OPERATIONAL.**

The 2-metre Trans-Atlantic beacon VO1ZA is now operational from Newfoundland, Canada. It transmits on a frequency of 144,400 MHz and beams towards Europe. The Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland operates the beacon.

The transmitter has a 250 W output feeding a Cushcraft 11 element long yagi. The beacon is situated at Conception Bay, Newfoundland with a locator of GN37JS. Antenna height is 90 m ASL. Reception reports should be sent to the following email addresses: vo1hp@rac.ca or vo1na@rac.ca. (The previous two news items from OZ8SL and ZS5JF).

## **NOMINATIONS FOR SARL COUNCIL AND SUBMISSION OF MOTIONS FOR AGM**

Nominations for candidates to serve on the Council of the SARL may be submitted till tomorrow, January 5. The nomination must be submitted in writing, duly signed by a proposer and seconder. A motivation and CV must accompany each nomination.

Each nomination must also be accompanied by a written statement signed by the candidate whereby he/she consents to serve as a member of the SARL Council.

The closing date for motions to be tabled at the AGM is also tomorrow. Motions must be sent to the League Secretary and must be signed by a proposer and a seconder.

Nominees, proposers and seconds must all be members of the SARL.

## **ORGANISATIONS' COMMENTS AUGMENT ALARM OVER BPL**

In America, two organizations have filed comments with the FCC that augment previously expressed worries about potential interference from and to Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems.

Picking up the “grave concerns” the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) expressed over BPL, December 4, the nonprofit Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA) is calling on the FCC to require impartial BPL field testing as well as additional public comment and full and open public hearings.

The Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) filed additional test data with the FCC to support its preliminary comments suggesting that BPL systems are susceptible to interference from even modest Amateur Radio HF signals. AMRAD said its data demonstrate that amateur operation in the test neighborhood could cause many homes to lose their Internet service. “At least an area out to a radius of 0,51 miles from the transmitting station could have their Internet connection interrupted,” AMRAD said. “Closer-in homes would almost certainly have their Internet service interrupted.”

AMRAD conducted an RF susceptibility experiment at the Potomac BPL test site in early November. The site is part of a Potomac Electric Power Company

(PEPCO) system test that uses a mid-1960s vintage home with unshielded electrical wiring. The test neighborhood has overhead power lines.

AMRAD found that at a distance of just over one-half mile, data transfer ceased in the face of a 100 W signal on 3980 kHz from a mobile transmitter. Adjacent to the test property, AMRAD said data transfer ceased in all but one instance at a transmitter power of just 4 W in the BPL operating band of from 4 to 21 MHz.

The ARRL hopes to complete an independent BPL engineering study by early 2004.

It will explore how BPL might affect HF and low-VHF amateur operation as well as how Amateur Radio operation could affect BPL systems. Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site.

#### CLUB NEWS

##### EAST RAND CLUB

The East Rand Radio Club invites all clubs, especially clubs from the East Rand, to a bootsale on 24 January 2004 at 10:00 at the Germiston Lake Boat Club. The bootsale will be followed by a meeting to kickstart a forum for East Rand Clubs that will coordinate club events and much more.

The Germiston Boat Club boasts safe parking and an enclosed venue.

See you there.

The East Rand Radio Club will be holding a Committee Meeting on 16 January 2004 at 19:00 at the Clubhouse in Olympia Park Springs.

Members not able to attend should call Johanna Harris at 011-814- 2121 for apologies.

##### DATES FOR EVENTS TO PARTAKE IN

10 - 11 January - Hunting Lions on the Air 18 January - INTECNET 23 - 25 January - PEARS VHF/UHF contest 14 February - Kids Day

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Martin, ZS6ABU, and read by .....from..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX